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IAC-D-57/92  
11 February 1958

Post-Mortem on NIE 12-58:

Outlook for Stability in the Eastern European Satellites,

dated 4 February 1958

I. Findings

1. The paucity of information on political developments in Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Bulgaria and Albania is the principal intelligence deficiency noted during preparation of this estimate. However, this deficiency--which has existed for many years--is mitigated to some extent in Czechoslovakia and Rumania by the reporting of US diplomatic missions. There is a dearth of information about what the people in the Satellites are thinking. These serious gaps in information make it difficult to assess such factors as the level of ferment both within and outside the Parties, the attitudes and motives of Party leaders, and the relations of these countries with the USSR.

2. More information is available concerning political developments in East Germany, Poland, and Hungary (in that order). In the case of Poland, overt sources of information have become of particular value. Nevertheless, our knowledge of developments within Party circles in all three of these countries remains generally sparse, and often makes it hard to evaluate the information we do receive. As for our estimates on Soviet policy toward the Satellites, they remain primarily deductive, [REDACTED]

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II. Action

The IAC agencies are requested to take such action as feasible to remedy the above weaknesses in intelligence coverage.

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